

the several alleged discoveries of the eggs of this species—in ground nests—and showing that they cannot be taken as authentic, he proceeds to describe the taking of three sets of eggs by Mr. Evan Thompson, in northern Alberta,—one on June 16, 1903, in a deserted Robin's nest, another June 9, 1904, in the nest of a Bronzed Grackle, and the third on June 24, 1904, in the nest of a Cedar Waxwing. The second set was unfortunately destroyed, but of the third set he says: "Mr. Thompson was fortunate in shooting the parent bird as she flew from the nest and thus identification is very complete and establishes the fact once for all, that the Solitary Sandpiper does not lay its eggs in a nest on the ground like other sandpipers, but takes possession of the nest of other birds, built in trees, just the same as its Old World representative the Green Sandpiper is known to do." The eggs are described as being entirely different from those of the Spotted Sandpiper, but as bearing "family likeness to eggs of the European Green and Wood Sandpipers, as might be expected, but, of course, like the birds themselves, the eggs are much smaller than those" of the two species of European Sandpipers mentioned. The separate of Mr. Raine's paper is accompanied by a photograph of the two sets obtained, in situ in the nests, and also a memorandum in pencil to the effect that set No. 3 is now in the collection of the Hon. John H. Thayer of Lancaster, Mass.—J. A. A.

Riley on the Birds of Barbuda and Antigua.¹—This paper is based "on a collection of 325 bird skins formed by Mr. H. G. Selwyn during the late summer, fall, and early winter of 1903, recently acquired by the United States National Museum," it constituting the largest single collection ever made on these ornithologically little-known islands. The collection adds several species new to the islands and one, *Dendroica subita*, new to science. This species belongs to the *D. adelaidæ* group, but is quite distinct from any previously known. The total number of species recorded from these islands is 51, respecting several of which there is extended critical comment. The form of *Butorides* represented is called *B. virescens maculatus* (Bodd.); the form of Little Blue Heron found there is designated as *Florida cærulea cærulescens* (Lath.); the Zenaida and Ground Doves are respectively, *Zenaida zenaida aurita* (Temm.) and *Columbigallina passerina trochila* (Bonap.); the Sparrow Hawk is *Cerchneis sparveria caribæarum* (Gm.), and a new subspecies, *C. s. loquacula*, is described from Porto Rico; of the Mangrove Cuckoos, three forms are recognized, one of which, *Coccyzus dominicæ* Shelley receives a new name, being called *C. m. shelleyi*, Shelley's name proving to be preoccupied; and there are a few other modifications of nomenclature.

¹ Catalogue of a Collection of Birds from Barbuda and Antigua, British West Indies. By J. H. Riley. Smithsonian Collections (quarterly issue), Vol. XLVII, 1904, pp. 277-291. Published Nov. 9, 1894.

Mr. Riley has also recently described a new flycatcher from Grenada and St. Vincent as *Myiarchus oberi nugator*.¹—J. A. A.

Dubois's '*Synopsis Avium*.'²—Since our last notice of this work it has been concluded by the publication of fasciculi XIII–XVI, completing the Herodiones and containing the Grallatores, Palamedæ, Anseres, Steganopodes, Gaviæ, Tubinares, Pygopodes, Impennes, Apteryges, Casuarii, Rheæ, and Struthiones; also the Supplement and the alphabetic tables, or indexes, to the genera, species and subspecies, and the systematic table of the orders and families.

According to the author's 'postface,' the '*Synopsis*' includes 12,509 species and 3969 subspecies, or a total of 16,478 species and subspecies, apportioned among 2252 genera. The orders number 23, and there are 145 families.

The author's plan and purpose, and the system of classification adopted, has already been explained in our notices of the first fasciculus (Auk, XVII, 1900, p. 81), and of Part I (Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 409). As said before, the '*Synopsis*' is constructed very nearly on the plan of the late G. R. Gray's '*Hand List of the Genera and Species of Birds*,' completed in 1871, and, including the 'supplement,' brings the subject down to the early part of 1902. The supplement (pp. 1053–1118) contains the 'genera, species, and subspecies, and many corrections of nomenclature, which appeared during the publication of the work (1899–1902) too late to be included in it, the new species and subspecies alone numbering respectively 510 and 642. It is the author's plan to issue additional supplements from time to time, thus keeping the work up to date. While the classification is far from modern, the author is to be congratulated on the completion of so arduous and useful an undertaking, which renders so conveniently accessible references to the original descriptions and figures of the world's ornith.—J. A. A.

Madarász's '*An Extraordinary Discovery in Ornithology*.'—This is a

¹ Description of a new *Myiarchus* from Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies. Smithsonian Contributions (quarterly issue), Vol. XLVII, 1904, pp. 275, 276. Published Nov. 8, 1904.

² *Synopsis Avium* | — | Nouveau | Manuel d'Ornithologie | par | Alphonse Dubois | Docteur en sciences naturelles, | Conservateur au Musée Royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique, | Officier de l'Ordre de Léopold, | Membre du Comité internationale et permanent d'Ornithologie, | de la Commission permanente d'étude des Collections de Musée de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo, | Membre honoraire, correspondant ou effective de plusieurs Sociétés savantes. | — | Deuxième Partie | (1902–1904) | — | Bruxelles | H. Lamertin, éditeur | 20, Rue du Marché-au-Bois. | — 1904—Roy. 8vo, pp.i-x + 731 + 1339, pll. col. xiii–xvi.